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Letter dated 27 August 2009 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as President of the Security Council, I am forwarding to you a letter dated 12 August 2009 from the Chairman of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), based on the Working Group's conclusions adopted on 1 July 2009 (S/AC.51/2009/1) (see annex).

(*Signed*) Philip **Parham**
for John Sawers
President of the Security Council

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Annex

Letter dated 12 August 2009 from the Chairman of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict addressed to the Secretary-General

On 19 December 2008, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), examined your report on children and armed conflict in Afghanistan (S/2008/695). Following its meeting on 1 July 2009, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on the parties to the armed conflict in Afghanistan (S/AC.51/2009/1).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, approved by the Security Council, and subject to and consistent with applicable international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1612 (2005), I am entrusted, in my capacity as the Chairman of the Working Group, to welcome your call upon the country-level Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting to present a plan on ways and means to interface with Government, international military forces and other relevant parties to extend the monitoring and reporting mechanism mandated by Council resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005) to all conflict areas of Afghanistan, in order to allow full monitoring of parties committing violations against children and prompt advocacy and effective response to all violations and abuses committed against children.

I also encourage you to strengthen the efforts of the United Nations country team to bring the Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting to its full capacity in order to ensure that accurate, objective, reliable and comprehensive information is collected and communicated on the violations and abuses committed against children.

I would like to request you to continue to allocate human and technical resources to ensure that all children affected by conflict in all regions are covered under the monitoring and reporting mechanism, as well as to explore ways to ensure that the United Nations country team works in close consultation with the Government of Afghanistan and the international military forces in order to support their efforts to minimize civilian casualties, in line with international humanitarian law.

I would ask you to address the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, as applicable, to all prisons and places of detention in Afghanistan, and ensuring that those organizations follow up, as appropriate, with the monitoring and reporting mechanism with regard to children detained because of their alleged association with armed groups; and to ensure as a matter of priority the continuous implementation of the Security Council's request for a child protection component in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in particular through the appointment of child protection advisers in the Mission.

Furthermore, I would invite you to request the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF and other relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates and in close cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, to continue to address socio-economic issues, which will also contribute to addressing the welfare of children affected by armed conflict, including strengthening national institutions; and further to provide assistance in the

implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration programmes and to strengthen and protect the education system, in particular securing and rebuilding education facilities, including in conflict-affected areas.

Finally I would invite you to address the long-term effects of armed conflict on children by supporting the development of an adequate health-care system to facilitate their full recovery, including special attention to psychological care for all children affected by armed conflict, and appropriate health care and services for affected boys and girls.

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Chairman of the Working Group on
Children and Armed Conflict